

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues. On a previous opportunity to vote on this issue it was my privilege to vote yes. The court system needs these extra five positions and they should be funded. I was working in a fools paradise because I figured someplace this Legislature would also cut some money out of this budget. It's not true. If we won't cut any we've got no business adding any. I will now vote no.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I assure you that I am undoubtedly going to vote no because I'm concerned...there is only five employees, where are they going to be? Are they going to travel all around the state to help all the different county courts out, or are they located in one particular place? No one has explained that to us. I wish that Senator Barnett, in proposing the amendment, would tell me where these five employees are going to be. Must be going to rotate them or something. I can't figure it out.

SENATOR BARNETT: Is that a question, Herb?

SENATOR DUIS: Yes. I would like to know where the five employees.... Are they going to drive around the state and help out each county?

SENATOR BARNETT: No.

SENATOR DUIS: Where are they going to be?

SENATOR BARNETT: What they're going to do is they've got about 13 or 14 counties. I read those counties to you the other day. If you weren't here I can get them for you, I'd be happy to do that. What they'll do is they have counties where they are short employees. Some of these counties are in the smaller area of population. An employee would probably drive back and forth, or they would have a part-time employee in one area, and part-time in the other county, which would make the same as a one full-time person equivalent. In other words, you would have a half-time in one county, half in the other, that would count for one employee. Another county might include.... I don't know what you're shaking your head for. I'm not done answering. You want me to stop there?

SENATOR DUIS: Yes, that's fine. You've answered my question. They won't be every place. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I had pretty much the same questions Senator Duis does because we have a problem in my county. We had a young man charged by the police on the evening of Thanksgiving eve. The bond was not posted, and they called the judge to see if he would just orally set bond over the phone so they could release the young man. They were informed by his wife that the judge was napping and they would have to wait until the following day when the judge had awakened, and then he would set the bail. I wondered maybe one of these people could come up and wake the judge.